What is claimed is:

1.   A method of organizing digital audio tracks on a
predetermined media for selection by an audio player, said
predetermined media storing said digital audio tracks in a
directory-based file system, said method comprising the
steps of:

scanning said predetermined media to locate each of
said digital audio tracks and to determine a total number of
tracks;

numbering said digital audio tracks with a flat-file
selection number from a first flat-file selection number to
a last flat-file selection number in a flat file mode;

numbering each directory within said file system
containing at least one of said digital audio tracks from a
first directory number to a last directory number in a
single-level directory mode;

numbering digital audio tracks within each numbered
directory with an in-directory selection number from a
respective first in-directory selection number to a
respective last in-directory selection number;

selecting either said flat file mode or said
directory mode;

when in said flat file mode, searching for a desired
digital audio track by sequentially navigating through said
flat-file selection numbers; and

when in said directory mode, selecting a desired
directory and then searching for a desired digital audio
track by sequentially navigating through said in-directory
selection numbers.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first flat-
file selection number equals 1 and said last flat-file
selection number equals said total number of tracks.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first in-
directory selection number in each respective numbered
directory is equal to 1.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein each respective last in-directory selection number is equal to a total number of said digital audio tracks contained within its respective directory.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said scanning step is comprised of compiling and storing in an index table a respective flat-file selection number, a directory number, and an in-directory selection number assigned to each digital audio track found during said scanning.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said digital audio tracks are identified by a respective file extension in their respective file names of said file system.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said digital audio tracks are encoded as MP3 files.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined media is comprised of a CD-ROM disc.

9. An audio player for reproducing selections from a predetermined media containing digital audio tracks stored in a directory-based file system, said audio player comprising:
a display showing selection number identifying data;
a user control interface for selecting either a flat-file mode or a directory mode and for navigating sequentially through said selection number identifying data; and
a controller for scanning said predetermined media to locate each of said digital audio tracks and to determine a total number of tracks, for numbering said digital audio tracks with a flat-file selection number from a first flat-file selection number to a last flat-file selection number in said flat file mode, for numbering each directory within said file system containing at least one of said digital

audio tracks from a first directory number to a last
directory number in said directory mode, and for numbering
digital audio tracks within each numbered directory with an
in-directory selection number from a respective first in-
5   directory selection number to a respective last in-directory
selection number;

      wherein, when in said flat file mode, said controller
is responsive to said user control interface for searching
for a desired digital audio track by sequentially navigating
10  through said flat-file selection numbers; and

      wherein, when in said directory mode, said controller
is responsive to said user control interface for selecting a
desired directory and then for searching for a desired
digital audio track by sequentially navigating through said
15  in-directory selection numbers.

      10.   The audio player of claim 9 wherein said display
further shows an indicator according to a one of said flat
file mode or said directory mode that is selected at a
20  particular time.

      11.   The audio player of claim 9 wherein said
selection number identifying data shown on said display is a
flat-file selection number while in said flat file mode, and
25  wherein said selection number identifying data shown on said
display includes an in-directory selection number while in
said directory mode.

      12.   The audio player of claim 11 wherein said
30  selection number identifying data for said directory mode is
comprised of a directory number followed by an in-directory
selection number.

      13.   The audio player of claim 9 wherein said display
35  further shows a wait message during said scanning of said
predetermined media.

      14.   The audio player of claim 9 further comprising:

an index table compiled during said scanning of said
predetermined media for storing a respective flat-file
selection number, a directory number, and an in-directory
selection number assigned to each digital audio track found
5    during said scanning.